GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1820
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Digital Connectivity in Rural Areas
Pathak Smt. Riti

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a) the action taken by the Government to expedite the work in regard to providing digital access particularly in farflung areas/villages;
(b) whether the Government proposes to promote information technology infrastructure for providing digital connections in Gram Panchayats, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to bring in private sector for promoting the digital connectivity in rural areas; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) and (b): The action taken by the Government to expedite the work in regard to providing digital access particularly in far flung areas/villages, and promoting information technology infrastructure for providing digital connections in Gram Panchayats (GPs) is as under:

(i) BharatNet: Provisioning of internet connectivity at rural areas is under the purview of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Ministry of Communications. DoT is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, renamed as BharatNet. Telecom Commission in its meeting on 14.12.2016 approved the revised implementation strategy of BharatNet project. It has been planned to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakhs) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. The project is planned to be implemented in three phases: Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) which is under implementation. Under Phase-II, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakhs GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, and provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country, which is targeted to be completed by March,2019. Under third phase, a state-of-the-art network with ring architecture is planned to be completed by 2023.

Under the said project (phase-I), 2,38,489 KMs of pipeline has been laid in 1,06,276 GPs, 2.20 lakhs KMs of optical fibre pulled for 1,00,152 GPs and 23,147 GPs have been connected so far till July 9, 2017. The detailed status of BharatNet project under Phase-I is given in Annexure-I.
(ii) Wi-Fi Choupal: The CSC Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) launched an initiative on pilot basis called- Wi-Fi Choupal for 5,000 Gram Panchayats (GP), a rural Wi-Fi service initiative in financial year 2016-17 at the behest of Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India. Wi-Fi Choupal project has been launched to provide Wi-Fi Internet access in rural India through CSCs. As on date, Wi-Fi Infrastructure has been deployed in 2500 GPs across 9 States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka) and 2 Union Territories (Chandigarh and Puducherry). The activation of the internet service has been done at 650 GP locations.

(iii) National Information Infrastructure (NII):
A pilot on National Information Infrastructure (NII) for a period of one year was initiated by MeitY in July, 2015 for one district each in the States of Nagaland, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh and Puducherry to integrate various ICT infrastructure namely State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), National Knowledge Network (NKN), National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET), State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) including National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)/BharatNet created in these States. The objective is to provide connectivity to government offices upto Gram Panchayat (GP) level (1059 GPs).
(iv) Common Services Centre (CSC): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India approved a project- "CSC 2.0", in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme for a period of four years, which envisages setting up of at least one Common Services Centre (CSC) at Gram Panchayat (GP) level to cover all the 2.5 lakhs GPs across the country to facilitate the delivery of citizen centric eServices. M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a CSC Special Purpose Vehicle, CSC -SPV) was engaged as the implementing agency for the project with active support and participation by the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Nodal Department(s), State Designated Agencies (SDAs), and, the District e-Governance Society (DeGS).

Till June, 2017, 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, out of which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. Out of the total registered CSCs, 2,61,071 CSCs are functioning and transacting for delivery of eServices, out of which, 1,63,226 CSCs are functioning at GP level. The State/UT-wise CSC roll out status is given in Annexure-II.

(c) and (d): Under the BharatNet Project, the Government has modified its strategy to implement the project in three phases in

collaboration with Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

In order to facilitate the delivery of eServices, particularly in rural areas, M/s CSC e-Governance Services India Limited was set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC -SPV) under Company Act, 1956 in 2009. CSC −SPV is collaborating with Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), Private, Public and other eService providers at National level and State/Union Territory (UT) level for seamless delivery of citizen centric eServices across the country including Wi-Fi service (on pilot basis).

The Telecom connectivity is provided by various Telecom Service Providers which includes private players and Government Public Sector undertakings.

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Annexure-I
STATUS OF BHARATNET AS ON 09.07.2017
S.N. Description of Work Status
1. OFC Pipe laid 2,38,489 Kms (1,06,276 GPs)
2. Optical Fibre laid 2,20,139 Kms (1,00,152 GPs)
3. Tenders Finalized 3324 Blocks / 1,24,412 GPs
4. Work Started* 3223 Blocks / 1,20,570 GPs
5. Current Weekly performance of Optical Fibre laying 662Kms
6. Current Weekly performance of OFC Pipe laying 889 Kms
7. Optical Fibre Cable Delivered on site 2,55,499 Kms
8. GPON Integrated & Tested (Lit) 23,147 GPs

* does not include the data of Andhra Pradesh
State-wise status of NOFN (BharatNet) as on 09.07.2017
S. No. States/ UTs No. of Gram Panchayats (GPs)- Phase I Pipe laid (kms.) Cable laid (in kms) No. of GPs where Pipe laid No. of GPs where Cable laid GPs Lit
1 Assam 1533 3799 4158 1420 1348 354
2 Bihar 5754 12199 12940 4967 4742 711
3 Chhattisgarh 4104 10213 7873 3304 3159 1289
4. Haryana 6020 9776 10993 5907 5801 894
5. Jammu & Kashmir 388 427 388 214 200 0
6. Karnataka 6092 11784 12193 6026 6010 4826
7. Kerala 977 720 830 1129 1129 1129
8. Madhya Pradesh 12655 35904 31113 12026 11643 3599
9. Maharashtra 15301 26696 25129 12664 11843 1992
10. Punjab 8049 9810 9153 6989 6745 637
11. Rajasthan 8194 21069 20268 7114 7046 1725
12. Uttar Pradesh 27974 48556 44678 25363 23409 2785
13. Uttarakhand 1863 2792 2636 1503 1463 431
14. West Bengal 2637 5175 4876 1822 1791 231
15. Andaman & Nicobar 69 0 0 0 0 0
16. Chandigarh 12 18 19 12 12 12
17. Arunachal Pradesh 863 1558 656 609 220 0
18. Nagaland 994 2614 1475 831 462 0
19. Manipur 904 333 232 154 122 26
20. Mizoram 763 735 438 125 73 0
21. Tripura 1021 1688 1584 834 810 79
22. Meghalaya 1208 1212 525 433 191 0
23. Gujarat 6905 10518 9542 5046 4478 1018
24. Puducherry 98 82 92 98 98 101
25. Andhra Pradesh 1673 2627 766 520 283 0
26. Telangana 2017 4538 4462 2038 2038 206
27. Odisha 3860 8121 7970 3109 3108 517
28. Jharkhand 2713 5012 4669 1864 1775 529
29. Himachal Pradesh 252 513 481 155 153 56
30. Daman & Diu 15 0 0 0 0 0
31. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 20 0 0 0 0 0
32. Sikkim 52 0 0 0 0 0

33. Lakshadweep 10 0 0 0 0 0
34. Tamil Nadu 0 0 0 0 0 0
35. Goa* - - - - - -
Grand Total 124127 238489 220139 106276 100152 23147
*All the GPs of Goa are already connected with Optical Fibre

ANNEXURE − II

STATE/UT-WISE CSC ROLL OUT STATUS AS ON 30 JUNE, 2017
S. No. State No. of Gram Panchayat (GP) No. of CSCs Registered including GP No. of CSCs Registered at GP level No. of GPs covered with Registered CSC Total No. of Functional CSCs including GP Total No. of Functional CSCs at GP level
1 2 3 3.1 4 5
1 Andhra Pradesh 12833 5488 3475 3475 5212 3119
2 Arunachal Pradesh 1779 115 54 54 54 44
3 Assam 2196 2735 2246 1883 2213 1559
4 Bihar 8463 22380 17541 8413 19090 11960
5 Chhattisgarh 9734 11929 8410 9734 11175 7940
6 Goa 189 54 37 37 32 30
7 Gujarat 13735 18062 14845 13735 16805 13885
8 Haryana 6155 8724 5834 5834 7900 4923
9 Himachal Pradesh 3243 2624 2269 2269 2552 1952
10 Jammu & Kashmir 4128 2123 1039 1039 1727 900
11 Jharkhand 4423 9799 7445 4161 9014 5295
12 Karnataka 5628 6564 2665 2665 4963 2333
13 Kerala 979 2676 1969 979 2119 1111
14 Madhya Pradesh 23012 19446 13175 13175 16194 11873
15 Maharashtra 27920 31066 19464 19464 25324 17788
16 Manipur 165 646 256 165 554 207
17 Meghalaya 1463 262 193 193 198 74
18 Mizoram 776 376 316 316 316 176
19 Nagaland 1123 232 230 230 220 138
20 Odisha 6234 8651 6832 5564 6545 5599
21 Punjab 12800 6261 4282 4282 5229 3464
22 Rajasthan 9946 30436 15038 9946 29814 14878
23 Sikkim 165 37 31 31 31 23
24 Tamil Nadu 12618 11069 5773 5773 7408 4646
25 Telangana 8787 5564 3180 3180 5043 2855
26 Tripura 1038 521 442 442 366 322
27 Uttar Pradesh 51914 67054 41675 41675 58876 35804
28 Uttarakhand 7555 5594 4441 4441 4339 3853
29 West Bengal 3351 17527 13584 3230 15653 6330
State Total 242352 298015 196741 166385 258966 163081
Union Territory
1 Andaman & Nicobar 69 49 26 24 42 20
2 Chandigarh 17 112 29 17 65 21
3 Dadra & Nagar Haveli 11 31 16 11 21 9
4 Daman and Diu 14 11 2 2 8 1
5 Delhi 0 2361 0 0 1854 0
6 Lakshadweep 10 3 3 3 2 2
7 Puducherry 98 192 105 95 113 92
UT Total 219 2759 181 152 2105 145
GRAND TOTAL 242571 300774 196922 166537 261071 163226